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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/602,490	06/23/2000	Reiner Kraft	ARC9-1999-0245	1404

23334 7590 01/13/2005

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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/602,490

Applicant(s)

KRAFT, REINER

Examiner

LaShonda T Jacobs

Art Unit

2157

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is Office Action in response to Applicant's Amendment filed on November 4, 2004.

Claims 1, 14 and 22 have been amended and claims 1-23 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 14, 16-17, 20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gongwer (hereinafter, "Gongwer", U.S. Pat. No. 6,138,120) in view of Gormley et al (hereinafter, "Gormley", U.S. Pat. No. 5,628,004)

As per claims 1 and 22, Gongwer discloses a method and computer readable medium of sharing queries in a hub-processing unit coupled to a plurality of information processing units over a network, the method on the information-processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a string from a first user (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18);
- determining if the string is a query, if the string is a query performing the sub-steps of (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18):
 - a. storing the query in an information processing unit (col. 3, lines 36-55); and

Art Unit: 2157

- b. forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects a query for sharing with a second user connected to the hub processing unit (col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 10-25, col. 11, lines 58-67 and col. 12).

Even though Gongwer discloses sharing queries between a plurality of clients.

However, Gongwer does not explicitly disclose:

- a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database (col. 10, lines 55-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 33-51).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gongwer by including a multi-user query library to store queries in order to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 14, Gongwer discloses a client information-processing unit coupled via a network with a hub processing unit apparatus for sharing queries comprising:

- an input for receiving a string from a first user (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18);
- a comparator for determining if the string is a query (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 2, lines 1-18);

Art Unit: 2157

- an interface for storing the query in an information processing unit memory (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 2, lines 1-18); and
- an output for forwarding the query to a hub processing unit in the event that the first user selects a query for sharing (col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 10-25, col. 11, lines 58-67 and col. 12).

Even though Gongwer discloses sharing queries between a plurality of clients.

However, Gongwer does not explicitly disclose:

- a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- a selection for one of the stored queries for sharing in the database (col. 10, lines 55-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 33-51).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gongwer by including a multi-user query library to store queries in order to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 3 and 16, Gongwer discloses:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from the received string that has been shown to be a query (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18).

Art Unit: 2157

As per claims 4 and 17, Gongwer discloses:

- wherein the determining step further includes the sub-step of analyzing the string for a particular character or characters to determine if the string is a query (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18).

As per claims 7 and 20, Gongwer discloses:

- wherein the storing sub-step further includes storing the query in an information processing unit wherein the storing is temporary or permanent storage (col. 3, lines 36-55).

As per claim 8, Gongwer further discloses:

- a step of repetitively processing incoming strings as long as strings are received from the user (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18).

As per claims 9 and 21, Gongwer discloses a method of sharing queries in a hub-processing unit coupled to a plurality of client information processing units over a network, the method on the hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

- receiving a query selected for sharing by a user of a client information processing system (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18);
- storing the query (col. 3, lines 36-55);
- processing the search requests (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18);

However, Gongwer does not explicitly disclose:

- capturing search requests for shared queries entered by a second user;
- upon finding an interesting shared query by the second user, performing the further sub-steps of:

Art Unit: 2157

- a. activating a hyperlink to request a search result set upon user selection of the hyperlink; and
- b. displaying the search results set for a user's review.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- capturing search requests for shared queries entered by a second user (col. 11, lines 42-52);
- upon finding an interesting shared query by the second user, performing the further sub-steps of:
 - a. activating a hyperlink to request a search result set upon user selection of the hyperlink (col. 11, lines 42-52); and
 - b. displaying the search results set for a user's review (col. 9, lines 29-57, col. 10, lines 64-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 42-66).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gongwer by saving queries entered by a first or second client (user) in the multi-user query library to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 10, Gongwer discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Gongwer does not explicitly disclose:

Art Unit: 2157

- wherein the capturing step further comprises capturing searches made through headlines for documents.

Gormley discloses a computer system for creating and managing a database of communication recipients, which processes queries and operates in accordance with users commands including:

- wherein the capturing step further comprises capturing searches made through headlines for documents (col. 9, lines 29-57, col. 10, lines 64-67, col. 11, lines 1-9 and lines 42-66).

Given the teaching of Gormley, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Gongwer by saving queries entered by a first or second client (user) in the multi-user query library to allow a first or second client (user) to select, copy or delete any shared queries within the library to execute and retrieve the query results in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim 11, Gongwer discloses:

- wherein the receiving step further includes a sub-step of validating a received query string (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-18).

As per claim 23, Gongwer discloses a computer readable medium further comprising:

- instructions for selective sharing URLs (col. 1, lines 45-67, col. 2, lines 1-18 col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 10-25, col. 11, lines 58-67 and col. 12).

3. Claims 2, 5-6, 15, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gongwer in view of Gormley and in further view of Cullis.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claims 2 and 15, Gongwer in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Gongwer in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from a query history list.

Cullis discloses a method of organizing articles available over the Internet including:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further includes the sub-step of receiving from the user, a selection of a query from a query history list (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Given the teaching of Cullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gongwer in view of Gormley by allowing a user to select previous queries from other clients in order to review the search results (articles) and choose articles ranked according to the searching activity of other clients.

As per claims 5 and 18, Gongwer in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Gongwer in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the user to the shared query.

Cullis discloses a method of organizing articles available over the Internet including:

- wherein the sub-step of forwarding further comprises the sub-step of appending additional information from the user to the shared query (col. 5, lines 40-52, lines 65-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Art Unit: 2157

Given the teaching of Cullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gongwer in view of Gormley by including additional information to the query allowing a user to choose articles ranked according to the searching activity of other clients.

As per claims 6 and 19, Gongwer in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Gongwer in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the appending step further includes appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information.

Cullis discloses a method of organizing articles over the Internet including:

- wherein the appending step further includes appending additional information comprising category, title or descriptive information (col. 5, lines 40-52, lines 65-67 and col. 6, lines 1-14).

Given the teaching of Cullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gongwer in view of Gormley by including additional information to the query allowing a user to choose articles ranked according to the searching activity of other clients.

As per claim 12, Gongwer in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Gongwer in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- a step of awarding at least one of reward and points for at least one query submission by a user.

Cullis discloses a method of organizing articles over the Internet including:

Art Unit: 2157

- a step of awarding at least one of reward and points for at least one query submission by a user (col. 4, lines 60-67, col. 5, lines 1-9 and col. 6, lines 25-65).

Given the teaching of Cullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gongwer in view of Gormley by allowing a user receive points for query submission in order to review the search results (articles) and choose articles ranked according to the searching activity of other clients.

As per claim 13, Gongwer in view of Gormley discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Gongwer in view of Gormley does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission.

Cullis discloses a method of organizing articles over the Internet including:

- wherein the awarding step further comprises notifying an accounting manager of the query submission (col. 4, lines 60-67, col. 5, lines 1-9 and col. 6, lines 25-65).

Given the teaching of Cullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gongwer in view of Gormley by allowing a user receive points for query submission in order to review the search results (articles) and choose articles ranked according to the searching activity of other clients.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 2157

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
December 13, 2004


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